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PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6TH, 1834.

THE first Meeting of the Society, for the Session 1834-5, took place this day; the Right Hon. Sir ALEXANDER JOHNSTON, V.P., in the chair.

Among the various donations to the Library and Museum of the Society received during the vacation, and now laid upon the table, were the following:—

From M. Woollaston, Esq., a MS. Catalogue of the Sanskrit Manuscripts in the Hindú College at Calcutta. From Major Pogson, his "Narrative of a Tour to Chateegaon, in 1831;" and his "Memoir of the Mutiny at Barrackpore," &c. From the Zoological Society of London, its Transactions, Vol. I. Part 2. From Professor Garcin de Tassy, his edition, in Hindústání, of the Works of Wali. From Miss Roberts, her work, entitled "Oriental Scenes, Sketches, and Tales." From the Royal Academy of Sciences at Berlin, its Transactions for 1832. From J. Avdal, Esq., twenty-one works in the Armenian language. From Count Dietrichstein, "Metemata Botanica," &c. Part I. (only sixty copies printed). From H. Beaufoy, Esq., "Nautical and Hydraulic Experiments," Vol. I., by Colonel Mark Beaufoy. From the Right Hon. Henry Ellis, an ancient Syriac MS., and a French translation of "Ægidius Romanus de Regimine Principum," in MS. black letter, written in the fourteenth century. From Sir R. J. Wilmot Horton, the Colombo Journal for 1833, and Ceylon Almanac for 1834. From Professor Rosellini, the third volume and plates to "I Monumenti dell' Egitto e della Nubia," &c. From Lieut.-Col. Franklin, his "Remarks and Observations on the Plain of Troy." From Capt. Mackintosh, his Account of the Tribe of Ramoossies. From the translator, through the Right Hon. Sir Alex. Johnston, an English translation of Jacquemont's Letters from India. From W. C. Taylor, Esq., the Foreign Quarterly Review, No. XXVIII.

From Miss Forbes, an original drawing, by a Maltese artist, of an ancient Ruin on the Island of Goza, and a copy, by the same hand, from Newenham's Antiquities of Ireland, representing a ruin in that country, having a great resemblance to the former. From Lieut.-Col. Colebrooke, various specimens of natural productions, and models of instruments, &c. from Ceylon. From T. J. Maslen, Esq., a very curious and unique pack of ancient Hindú Playing Cards; with a description of the same. From the late Capt. Willock, through Sir Henry Willock, eight casts from the ruins of Persepolis, and a brick, cylinder, and whistle, from the site of the ruins of Babylon. From Captain S. Burt, an Assamese shirt, or outer dress.

The thanks of the Society were ordered to be returned to the respective donors.

Lord Viscount Pollington, Col. Strover, George Stratton, Esq., Capt. S. Burt, and Wm. C. Taylor, Esq., were elected Resident Members.

A paper on the present State and future Prospects of Oriental Literature, viewed in Connection with the Royal Asiatic Society, by W. C. Taylor, Esq., was read to the Meeting, and thanks were ordered to be returned to Mr. Taylor for the communication.*

SATURDAY, JANUARY 3RD, 1835.

THE Chair was taken at the usual hour by Colonel WILLIAM BLACKBURNE.

The donations laid on the table comprised :—

From John Murray, Esq., the Quarterly Review, No. CIV. From the Medico-Botanical Society, its Transactions for 1832-33. From Professor Flügel, his "*Corani Textus Arabicus*," &c. From the Imperial Academy of St. Petersburg, the Memoirs of the Academy for 1833-4. From the Chev. Gräberg d'Hemso, his "*Specio Geografico, e Statistico dell' Impero*," &c., with maps. From Miss C. Roberts, an engraved portrait, from an original miniature in her possession, of Kasiprasad Ghosh, the author of a poem in the English language, entitled "*The Shair*." From Rájá Káli Krishen Behádur, his translations into English of the Twenty-five Tales of Bytal, and "*The Fountain of Pleasure to the Learned*," with the original text. From Major H. D. Robertson, "*The Kalpadruma of the Coachmaker's Consecration*." A MS. Sanskrit work on a controversial subject, by a Brahmin, written in 1814. According to a letter from Major Robertson, which was read to the meeting, the author of the above work underwent much sectarian persecution on account of the doctrines advocated in it; and that he was compelled, rather than lose his caste, or suffer severe penance, publicly to recant his opinions, and burn a copy of his book by his own hand. He afterwards, however, told the Major that his real sentiments still remained the same.

The paper read at this meeting was a communication from B. H. Hodgson, Esq. of Nepál, on Buddhism in that country; and is intended as a corroboration of his former essay on the same subject, published in the second volume of the Society's Transactions. The author considers that Buddhism is not an original doctrine, but that it is derived from Brahmanism, and that there was no priesthood among its followers originally. Some of the extracts from the holy books of the Buddhists are curious instances of the abstruseness of Hindú metaphysics. The paper altogether is highly creditable to the talents and research of Mr. Hodgson, and the thanks of the Society were ordered to be returned to him.

Professor Hippolyte Rosellini, of Pisa, and Cavelly Venkátá Rámaswámi, of Madras, were elected members of the Society.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 17TH, 1835.

At this Meeting Major Sir HENRY WILLOCK took the Chair.

Among the donations to the Library of the Society, was a copy from the author, John Shakespear, Esq., of his well-known *Hindustání and English Dic-*

* Inserted in the present Number.

tionary. This is the third edition of the work; and its utility is now further increased by the addition of an English Index, referring to nearly every Oriental word in the dictionary; so that the corresponding terms may be found with the greatest facility.

A paper by Lieut.-Colonel Sykes, F.R.S., F.G.S., &c. on the Land Tenures of the Dekhan, was read. The author begins by enquiring into the aborigines of that province, which he satisfactorily traces to the Buddhists; and states, that they have a tradition current amongst them giving them a Rajpoot descent. Many interesting particulars relating to the law of tenures in that country are discussed in this paper, and it exhibits much talent and research on the part of its author.

Manockjee Cursetjee, of Bombay, was unanimously elected a non-resident member. This Parsi gentleman has written some very creditable pieces of poetry in the English language. In his letter to the Right Hon. Sir Alexander Johnston, containing his application for admission into the Society, he evinces an ardent desire to make himself useful in disseminating knowledge, and in furthering improvements and civilisation among his countrymen. This letter was accompanied by several certificates of recommendation, signed by no less than forty-one individuals, natives and English, of the highest respectability at that presidency. The election of Manockjee Cursetjee is an instance of the repute in which this Society is held by the natives, and augurs well for its becoming more generally supported by them.

The Chairman notified that the next meeting, on the 7th of February, would be special, in order to lay before the members a proposition of the Council that the Society should present Lieut. Burnes with a diploma constituting him a resident Member of the Society, and conferring on him all the rights and privileges of the same, as a mark of the high sense the Society entertains of the many valuable additions he has made to our acquaintance with the East by his researches in Western Asia.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7TH, 1835.

A SPECIAL General Meeting was held this day; Sir GEO. THOMAS STAUNTON, Bart., in the Chair.

The first business that came before the Meeting was, the consideration of the Council's recommendation relative to the presentation of a diploma of Resident Membership to Lieutenant Alexander Burnes (*vide* Proceedings, Jan. 17).

The chairman read a draft of the proposed diploma.

The question was then put, seconded by Sir Charles Wilkins, and resolved unanimously—

“That the recommendation of the Council be adopted; and that Lieutenant Burnes be requested to attend at the next General Meeting, on the 21st instant, to receive his diploma.”

The Chairman then submitted another recommendation of the Council, viz. :

“That any Resident Member, whose permanent residence may be abroad, shall be at liberty to become a non-resident Member, should the payments he may have already made to the Society amount to twenty guineas, or on making up that amount, inclusive of all his previous payments; and that he shall be free to resume his resident membership on recommencing to pay his annual subscriptions.”

The question being put from the chair, and seconded by David Pollock, Esq.

It was unanimously resolved,—That this recommendation of the Council be adopted; and that it be entered as one of the articles in the Regulations of the Society.

Several donations to the library were laid upon the table; amongst which were a copy, from the learned author, of the second edition of "Select Specimens of the Theatre of the Hindús," by Professor Wilson; and from J. C. Loudon, Esq., the first two numbers of his "Arboretum Britannicum; or, Hardy Trees of Britain."

The paper read to the meeting on this occasion was an extract from Capt. Low's Account of Tenasserim.

Samuel Dyer, Esq. was elected a resident member of the Society.
